

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

VOL. 14, No. 3

APRIL-MAY, 1945

LOYALTY NIGHT

St. Louis Bird Club **LOYALTY NIGHT** on April 27 will bring Dr. A. A. Allen, Professor of Ornithology at Cornell University, to Soldan High School to present "Birds on the Home Front". Dr. Allen, whose work in recording bird songs and filming bird life has given him a reputation unique in his profession, makes a contribution of decidedly practical value in his latest film. It is a story of the vital role played by our feathered allies in checking the insect menace and is told in a most colorful and entertaining fashion. Dr. Allen shows that for every group of insects there is some group of birds designed by nature to feed upon them. You will see grebes diving for them, sandpipers probing in the sand, orioles and tanagers searching the vegetation, and swallows combing the air. The colorful Forest Patrol of warblers . . . cerulean, golden-winged, mourning, chestnut-sided, and magnolia . . . appear on the screen so close that the very bugs in their bills can be identified. Highlights of the film show spring migrants in slow motion streaming across the sky and then following the plow and harvesting the insect crop of the

pastures, bluebills with rubber necklaces, and ringbills that play catch. The **LOYALTY NIGHT** audience will not be required to pay admission but will be requested to give contributions to the Educational Lecture Fund, a fund which helps the Bird Club finance the season's program. Do not fail to attend this outstanding lecture. Friday, April 27, Soldan High School, 8 P. M.

MENABONI EXHIBITION

As a fitting climax to a most successful season, the St. Louis Bird Club will present to the city of St. Louis the renowned artist, Athos Menaboni, of Dunwoody, Georgia and his charming wife, Sara. Mr. Menaboni is considered by many critics to be the modern John James Audubon. Like Audubon, he is a faithful observer of birds and paints them with meticulous care for detail. Unquestionably, he is one of the greatest of bird artists, and we are honored in having him appear with a collection of his works. A Menaboni exhibition of modern bird art in addition to some original Audubons will be displayed at the City Art Museum from May 1st through the 28th. On Monday, May 21st, 8 P. M., in the Exhibition Hall of the Museum, Sara Menaboni will give her delightful story of a bird artist at home and afield. Although the program is open to the public, non-members are asked to refrain from taking the limited seating facilities in order that Club Members may be privileged to hear Mrs. Menaboni. Mr. and Mrs. Menaboni will receive members

and the public in the Exhibition Hall between 8:45 and 9:30 P. M. At 7:30 P. M., the annual business meeting will be held prior to Mrs. Menaboni's talk. Do not forget this most important date: Monday, May 21. It promises to be one of those all too rare evenings that enchant us while it lasts and long afterward returns in the form of pleasurable reminiscence.



DR. A. A. ALLEN



ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN
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ANNUAL MEETING

The Club's annual business meeting will be held in the Exhibition Hall of the City Art Museum at 7:30 P. M. on Monday, May 21. It will mark the occasion of the first annual meeting to be held in May in accordance with the constitutional changes effected at last year's annual meeting. The amendments put the Club's fiscal year on a fall through spring basis to coincide with the "activity" year. Hence, it was deemed wise to hold the business meeting in May instead of in January. Officers for the 1945-46 season will be nominated and elected. As all pertinent business must be transacted prior to Sara Menaboni's talk at 8 P. M., it is important that the meeting start promptly at 7:30 P. M.

MAY BIRD WALKS

The popular Bird Walks will be conducted on each of the four Sundays in May. The Walks will begin at Jefferson Memorial in Forest Park at 7:30 A. M. We will be out to best last year's record-breaking performance of 125 species observed during the month of April and 96 different species on the last Sunday of the month. The need of leaders and assistants for the Walks is a very urgent one. We appeal to all members with sufficient training to offer their services.

CARE OF FLEDGLINGS

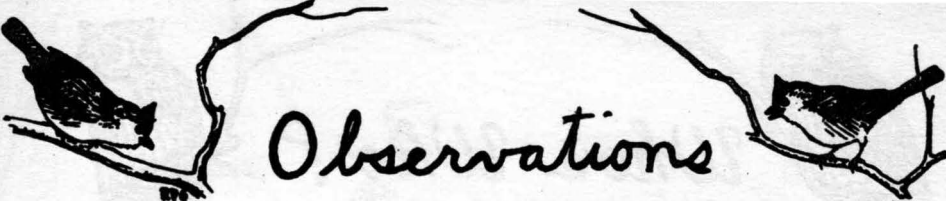
Now that spring is upon us and with it the advent of a brand new nesting season, it would be rare indeed if a few kind-hearted nature lovers were not to find themselves in the presence of a frightened and very much deserted fledgling. With a sort of what-do-I-do-now feeling and ever-growing doubts and mounting questions, we finally, in desperation, appeal to someone who might be expected to know more than we. To all such expectant foster-parents of avian orphans we heartily recommend the highly informative article "Experience with Fledglings" by Sara Menaboni in the May-June, 1944 issue of Audubon Magazine. On the basis of many rich and varied experiences in raising young birds, the Menabonis are well qualified to advise.

Sara Menaboni offers the following counsel: do not be too hasty in adopting foundlings. Should there be the slightest hope that the young ones will receive attention from their parents, they should be left to their care. Once assured of their plight, approach the problem of raising the fledgling armed with all the information you can get from bird books on nesting and feeding habits of the species involved. In general, if quite young, the bird should be placed in a simulated nest of soft cloth in a box or basket. Older birds should have a perch in a cage or, better still, the freedom of the room. Cleanliness is important, of course. The bird must have sunshine, but protection from the heat of the midday sun. At night, the young one must be warm and away from drafts. When older, bathing facilities should be provided. Remember, the less they are handled the happier they will be.

In the all important question of food, a knowledge of natural diet and digestive processes is a big help. With ingenuity and common sense a satisfactory formula can be worked out. Many prepared foods can be purchased for young quail, turkeys, and mallards. "Mockingbird Mixture", which may be bought also, is excellent for hooded warblers and mockingbirds. A good basic formula for starlings, blue jays, cardinals, and towhees consists of a hard-boiled egg, mostly yolk, mashed thoroughly with a few drops of cod liver or olive oil and enough warm water to make a soft consistency.

The experience of raising foundlings is a gratifying one, fostering sympathy and understanding between birds and human beings, a character builder for children, a pleasure for young and old alike. But whatever the attachment, every bird, upon reaching adulthood and when able to fend for itself, should be released.

So prepare yourselves, future foster-parents. Your fledgling may be looking for you at this very moment.



Observations

In a few short days, April 29 will be upon us. It is a date to mark on your calendar, for it is the day scheduled for the Annual Spring Census. As usual, the St. Louis Bird Club will conduct the Census at Creve Coeur Lake starting at 6:30 A. M. at the foot of the concrete steps leading from the Creve Coeur street-car stop, the site of the old Sea Scout base, and lasting until about 10 A. M. Other independant groups from the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, the Principia, Rockwoods Reservation, Trail Rangers of America, and the Pere Marquette Nature League will participate. Last year's census on May 14 recorded 152 species including such good finds as ruddy turnstones, long-billed dowitcher, yellow-crowned night heron, and red-breasted nuthatch. The largest list was compiled during the 1943 census on May 9, on which day 177 species were observed. This event will be the first out-of-doors activity for the club this season. With proper participation and a sufficient number of pairs of alert eyes, we might be able to boost the total to a new record. Do not forget the date; Sunday, April 29 at 6:30 A. M.

NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAM

This being the last bulletin of the spring, we thought you might be interested in a prevue of the programs planned for the 1945-46 season. In November, Laurel Reynolds will bring her kodachrome movie, "Fun With Birds", to St. Louis. It is an entertaining film recording more than seventy species of birds in their natural habitats of the Far West. Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. of Carleton College will return in February with a new and exciting lecture. Alfred M. Bailey, ever popular Director of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, will make his sixth consecutive appearance in March. And to climax the season, we are particularly pleased to have secured for the Annual Meeting next May, Tom and Arlene Hadley, who will present "Happy Valley". Tom Hadley is the president of the amazingly successful Detroit Audubon Club. Other lectures are in the making at the present time, and the way we see it we have another outstanding season ahead.

On a recent trip to Lake Okeechobee, Florida with Bert Harwell, Wayne Short was treated to the rare experience of seeing six of the vanishing Everglade kites. This interesting bird has been exterminated alarmingly to the point that it is now in the class with the whooping crane and ivory-billed woodpecker. "The Phantom of the Marshes" by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., an article well worth reading on the Everglade kite, is to be found in the January-February, 1945, issue of Audubon Magazine.

* * *

Harry and James Earl Comfort have located a pair of great horned owls nesting in Glendale.

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General observations by many club members concur that the unusually warm March weather has persuaded many birds to start northward earlier than usual. Such species as Bewick's wren, gray-cheeked thrush, phoebe, golden-crowned kinglet, woodcock, and brown thrasher have been seen one to two weeks before their normal arrival dates.

ALFRED M. BAILEY

Over 1800 people gathered at Soldan High School on March 26 to hear Alfred M. Bailey lecture to the St. Louis Bird Club audience and see his all-color film "High Country". It was a vivid portrait of alpine Colorado . . . snowy peaks, granite cliffs, sage flats, aspen forests, and the birds, animals, and wild flowers that make them their habitat. A remarkable sequence on the nesting activities of the rare pine grosbeak highlighted the evening's program. Excellent pictures of the white-tailed ptarmigan and the grotesque dance of the sage grouse were enthusiastically received. As the camera followed spring and the retreating snow up the mountain side, it captured images of columbine and lousewort, antelope and elk, mule deer and mountain sheep, and the handsome white-crowned sparrow that we will long remember. "High Country" upholds the Bailey tradition, which for five consecutive seasons has been giving us superlative entertainment.



Who's Who?



John McGuire has been receiving fan mail ever since his excellent bird imitations on the radio on March 21. Participating in one of a series of broadcasts under the auspices of the Division of Audio-Visual Education, he played the part of the whole robin family and half a dozen other species as well.

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The Missouri Conservation Commission invites visitors to Rockwoods Reservation to participate in the "Spring Explorations" to be conducted by the Conservator, Harold I. O'Byrne, during April and May. These hiking trips will last about two hours and are open to the public without charge. For further information, consult Harold I. O'Byrne at the Wildlife Exhibit or write, Route 1, Glencoe, Mo.

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Stratford Lee Morton introduced Alfred M. Bailey at our March meeting at Soldan High School.

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Club Members are invited to the new museum of the Academy of Science at 4642 Lindell Blvd. The museum is open daily from 9:30 A. M. to 5 P. M. and is featuring exhibits of entomology, airplanes, and "1200 years of watercraft".

We are pleased to record the following additions to the Bird Club membership from February 15th to March 27th: New Sustaining Members: Capt. Alfred G. Etter, Mrs. George E. Hourn, Mrs. Joseph H. Senne. New Active Members: Elbert Barrow, Philip C. Brown, Capt. Dorothy N. Dalton, Mrs. Evalyn E. Davis, Mrs. C. G. Drum, Peter Fischer, Miss Nancy Frobase, Mrs. W. O. Jackson, Cathryn Ann Kiewitt, Miss Selma B. Krausse, W. A. Lavender, Mr. Leslie W. Lyon, Mary C. McCulloch, Mrs. A. M. Ruck, Mrs. Elizabeth Sewell, James Shaw, Jr., Miss E. G. Sprague, Miss Marguerita Turner, Miss Otillia Wehrle, and Miss Bertha Wittler.

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This space is reserved for 770 Who's Whoers, the paid-up members of the St. Louis Bird Club. This figure is significant in that it represents the largest membership in Club history.

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Mrs. Erle R. Jackson, Club Member and Bird Chairman of the Federated Garden Club of Missouri, will bring her total of bird sanctuary dedications to 13 during the month of April, the 12th on April 22nd at 1:00 P. M. at Antonio, Mo. and the 13th on April 29th at 2:00 P. M. at Ferguson, Mo.

— PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL TO: —

The St. Louis Bird Club, Ethel Wolfe, Secretary and Treasurer
1607 Continental Bldg.
St. Louis 8, Missouri.

I want to help present Audubon Wildlife Screen Tours to St. Louis. Therefore, kindly enroll me as a member of the St. Louis Bird Club in the category checked below. Enclosed please find \$..... to cover the cost of my membership.

- ☐ Sustaining Membership, \$5.00. A Sustaining Membership enables me to support more substantially the activities of the St. Louis Bird Club, participate in its lecture program, bird walks, and receive the Club Bulletin. It also entitles me to membership in the National Audubon Society and to receive the Audubon Magazine. I understand that a part of my membership fee will be devoted to the cause of conservation on a nationwide scale.
- ☐ Active Membership, \$1.00. This membership entitles me to participate in all of the activities of the St. Louis Bird Club, its lecture program, bird walks, and receive the Club Bulletin.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(Kindly make all checks payable to the St. Louis Bird Club)

BACK THE ATTACK